

## Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

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P 172215Z DEC 75

FM AMCONSUL MONTERREY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2176

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS MONTERREY 0979

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX (SEHION, FLOYD HARRIS)

SUBJ: PIEDRAS NEGRAS PRISON ESCAPE AND CONDITION OF WOUNDED  
PRISONER SEHION

REF: MONTERREY 0956 AND 0960

1. WE SPOKE WITH PRISONER CHENOWETH AT PIEDRAS NEGRAS PREVENTIVA (JAIL) TODAY. HE CONFIRMED EARLIER ASSURANCES FROM MAYOR OF PIEDRAS NEGRAS THAT NO REPRISALS OR HARDSHIPS HAVE BEEN INFLICTED ON OTHER PRISONERS AS RESULT DEC. 8 ESCAPE FROM PENITENTIARY. CHENOWETH STATED THAT SEVERAL MEXICAN PRISONERS WERE INTERROGATED, BUT NO REPEAT NO AMERICAN PRISONERS WERE QUESTIONED BY AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING ESCAPE.

2. WE HAVE CONTINUED TO MONITOR SEHION'S CONDITION THROUGH MAYOR AND SEHION'S WIFE. MAYOR TREVINO INFORMED US YESTERDAY, DEC. 16, THAT SEHION'S CONDITION IS IMPROVING, BUT THAT DOCTORS WILL WAIT TO REMOVE BULLETS UNTIL HE HAS GAINED MORE STRENGTH. DOCTORS FEEL THAT OPERATION CAN WAIT SOME TIME AND THAT SEHION IS NO REPEAT NO DANGER DUE TO BULLETS LODGED IN NECK AND HEAD. MAYOR SAID THAT MOST PROBABLY OPERATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN PIEDRAS NEGRAS.

3. LETICIA MARTINEZ, SEHION'S WIFE, ALSO CONFIRMED, DEC. 17, THAT SEHION'S CONDITION IMPROVING, BUT SHE SAID THAT HUSBAND'S MIND WANDERS ON OCCASION AND THAT HE IS STILL IN PAIN FROM WOUNDS. SHE AGREED THAT TREATMENT AT CIVIL HOSPITAL IN PIEDRAS NEGRAS IS ADEQUATE.

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4. WIFE THEN COMPLAINED THAT SHE HAS SPENT APPROXIMATELY 80 U.S. TO DATE FOR MEDICINE FOR HUSBAND AND THAT FUTURE COSTS WILL BE 20 U.S. EVERY TWO DAYS. SHE EXPLAINED THAT THIS IS NORMAL SYSTEM AT CIVIL HOSPITAL, WHERE RELATIVES ARE EXPECTED TO PAY FOR ALL MEDICINE. MS. MARTINEZ STATED WHILE SHE WORKS IN PIEDRAS NEGRAS SHE DOES NOT EARN ENOUGH TO PAY FOR FUTURE MEDICINE AND THAT SHE MUST ALSO SUPPORT HER MOTHER. SHE ALSO STATED SEHION'S RELATIVES NOT IN POSITION PAY FOR MEDICINE. SHE THEN REQUESTED OUR ASSISTANCE.

5. WHEN THIS MATTER WAS RAISED WITH MAYOR, HE AGREED, AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, TO HAVE CITY PAY FOR HALF COST OF MEDICINE. WE STATED OUR POSITION IS THAT SEHION IS FEDERAL PRISONER AND THAT GOM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS CARE, INCLUDING COMPLETE MEDICAL COSTS. WE CONTINUED THAT IF FULL PAYMENT FOR MEDICINE COULD NOT BE PROVIDED LOCALLY, WE WOULD HAVE TO REQUEST THAT MATTER BE RAISED THROUGH EMBASSY WITH FEDERAL AUTHORITIES IN MEXICO CITY. MAYOR REPLIED THAT THIS WAS GOOD IDEA. CITY SIMPLY COULD NOT AFFORD PAY MORE THAN HALF AND THAT IN HIS OPINION FEDERAL AUTHORITIES SHOULD ASSUME WHAT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY. HE ADDED THAT DESPITE HIS EFFORTS, HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY FEDERAL GUIDANCE ON HOW SEHION SHOULD BE TREATED.

6. FOR EMBASSY: FOR BACKGROUND ON ESCAPE, SEE MONTERREY 0940 AND 0948. SEHION HAS APPEAL PENDING WITH SUPREME COURT IN MEXICO CITY. FOR THIS REASON, SOCIAL REHABILITATION OR OTHER AUTHORITY MEXICO CITY MAY TAKE POSITION THAT SEHION NOT FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY. NEVERTHELESS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SEHION'S WIFE SHOULD BE REQUIRED PAY APPROXIMATELY 50 U.S. WEEKLY BUY NECESSARY MEDICINE. PLEASE INFORM US IF EMBASSY BELIEVES IT APPROPRIATE TO RAISE MATTER WITH GOM. IF NOT, SUGGESTIONS HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED TO ASSIST MRS. SEHION WOULD BE APPRECIATED. LAMBERT

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